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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/660,733	09/13/2000	James S Wilson	004578.1073	7374

7590 05/21/2002

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EXAMINER

CIRIC, LJILJANA V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3743

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3743

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment and arguments filed on January 8, 2002.

2. The reply filed on January 8, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

The reply does not reply to every ground of objection and rejection in the prior Office action.

First of all, the reply fails to address (either by traversal or by amendment) the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, with regard to the unclear limitation "said tubing includes stainless steel" as cited on pages 4-5 of the previous Office action.

Second of all, the reply also fails to, for example, present arguments specifically explaining how the claims which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the *VEB Inducal* reference either avoid or distinguish from this reference.

Third of all, although the reply states that "Independent claim 22 stands rejected under §102 as anticipated by any one of the Smith, Clyde and VEB Inducal patents", claim 22 additionally stands rejected under §102 as being anticipated by the *Staskus et al.* reference; however, in view of the aforementioned quote, it is not clear whether or not applicant's arguments address the rejection of claim 22 (and of claims 23 and 24 depending therefrom) under §102 as being anticipated by the *Staskus et al.* reference.

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See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric, whose telephone number is (703) 308-3925. While she works a flexible schedule that varies from day to day and from week to week, Examiner Ciric may generally be reached at the Office during the work week between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett, can be reached on (703) 308-0101. The fax phone number is (703) 305-3463.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.


LJILJANA CIRIC
PATENT EXAMINER

lvc

May 16, 2002